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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/800,163	03/06/2001	Amit Mital	MS150965.1	3604
27195	7590	02/17/2006	EXAMINER	
AMIN & TUROCY, LLP 24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER 1900 EAST NINTH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			JARRETT, SCOTT L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/800,163

Applicant(s)

MITAL ET AL.

Examiner

Scott L. Jarrett

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/16/2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Final office action is in response to Applicant amendment filed September 30, 2005 and response to the USC 105 Requirement for Information filed December 16, 2005. Applicant's amendment amended claims 1-62. Currently claims 1-62 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed on September 30, 2005 and response filed December 16, 2005 with respect to amended claims 1-62 necessitated new ground(s) of rejection.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims amended claims 1-62 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that the applicant did not challenge the Official Notice(s) cited in the previous office action(s) therefore those statements as presented are herein after prior art. Specifically it has been established that it was old and well known in the art at the time of the invention:

- to automatically create a port (connection point, interface, etc.) on the edge of a component (transaction, node, element, node, object, etc.) thereby providing a convenient mechanism for accessing/modeling the port/component;

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- to identify/flag a port associated with a deleted component such that a message/alert/reminder is provided to the user indicating that the flow (task, edge, link, etc.) assigned to the port needs to be re-assigned and/or re-evaluated to ensure the business process has no dangling (unassigned) flows;

- that a decision component must have at least one rule as a precondition for being considered a decision component for without at least one rule there would be no logic (rule) upon which to make a decision; and

- to make at least one of the decision component rules non-editable thereby ensuring that every decision component has at least one rule.

Title

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: System and Method Utilizing a Graphical User Interface of a Business Process Workflow Scheduling Program.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 14 and 60 are objected to because of the following.

Regarding Claim 14, Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: the acronym COM is not spelled out. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding Claim 60, Claim 60 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Both Claim 60 and its parent claim 59 recite a system include a means for coupling/binding a graphical representation of a business process workflow to at least one technological component.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 40-52 and 60-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claim 40, claim 40 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 41, claim 41 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 42, claim 42 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 41. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 41. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 43, claim 43 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 44, claim 44 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 45, claim 45 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 44. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 44. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 46, claim 46 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 47, claim 47 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 46. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 46. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 48, claim 48 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 46. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 46. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 49, claim 49 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 46. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 46. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 50, claim 50 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 46. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 46. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 51, claim 51 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 50. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 50. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 52, claim 52 recites the limitation "the method" in Claim 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...the computer readable medium of claim 39. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 60, claim 60 recites the limitation "the system" in Claim 59. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...graphical user interface program of claim 59. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 61, claim 61 recites the limitation "the system" in Claim 60. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...graphical user interface program of claim 60. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Regarding Claim 62, claim 62 recites the limitation "the system" in Claim 59. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner suggests applicant amend claim to read "...graphical user interface program of claim 59. . ." to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-5, 8-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ott, Marcus, Conceptual Design and Implementation of a Graphical Workflow-Modeling Editing in the Context of Distributed Groupware-Databases (1994).

Regarding Claim 1 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program comprising:

- a first screen (window, panel, pane, box, area, region, workspace, “drawing pad”, etc.) employed to create a graphical (visual, symbolic, pictogram, iconic, etc.) representation (model) of a business workflow process (Paragraphs 2-3, Page 62; Section 5.2 Requirements for a graphical workflow modeling editor, Pages 65-66; Section 5.3.1 Graphical Modeling Notation, Pages 73-74, 128; Figures 4-9, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 128); and
- a second screen employed to bind (link, couple, associate, relate, tie, group, map, etc.) the graphical representation of a business workflow process to at least one technological component (code, system, subsystem, routine, object, sub-workflow, building block item, hardware, software, process, sub-process, task, activity, script,

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agent, resource, etc.; e.g. OLE/DDE, hyperlinks, etc.; Paragraph 2, Page 49; Section 4.3.2 Link, Pages 52-53; Section 6.1 WOMED's visual process language, Pages 86-87; Figures 4-9, 507, 7-2).

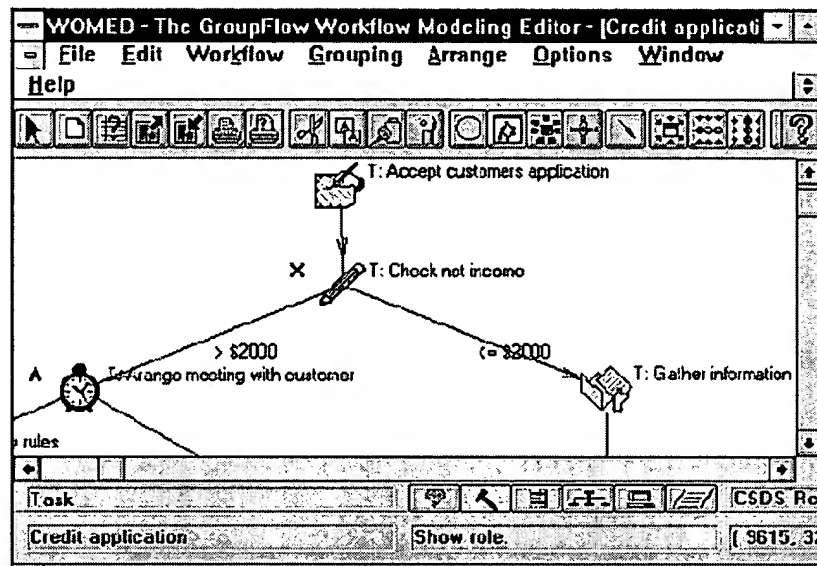


Figure 4-9 [Representation of a X-Or split in the graphical modelling editor]

The screenshot shows the 'Object Properties' dialog box. It has a title bar 'Object Properties' and a list of forms on the left. The 'Purchase order form' is selected. To the right, there are two columns: 'Readers' and 'Non Readers'. The 'Readers' column lists 'Reader', 'Signer', and 'Supervisor'. The 'Non Readers' column lists 'Assistant' and 'Corrector'. Below these columns, there are two sections: 'Read only' and 'Editable'. The 'Read only' section lists 'Information' and 'Status & Tracking'. The 'Editable' section lists 'Amount' and 'Item(s) description'. At the bottom, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Forms	Readers	Non Readers
Purchase order form	Reader	Assistant
Checkup Form	Signer	Corrector
Credit application	Supervisor	
Customers data		
Purchase order form		
Purchase request form		
Purchase requisition form		
Scanner		
Timetable		
Workflow Process		

Read only	Editable
Information	Amount
Status & Tracking	Item(s) description

Figure 4-11 [Picking objects and sections with WOMED]

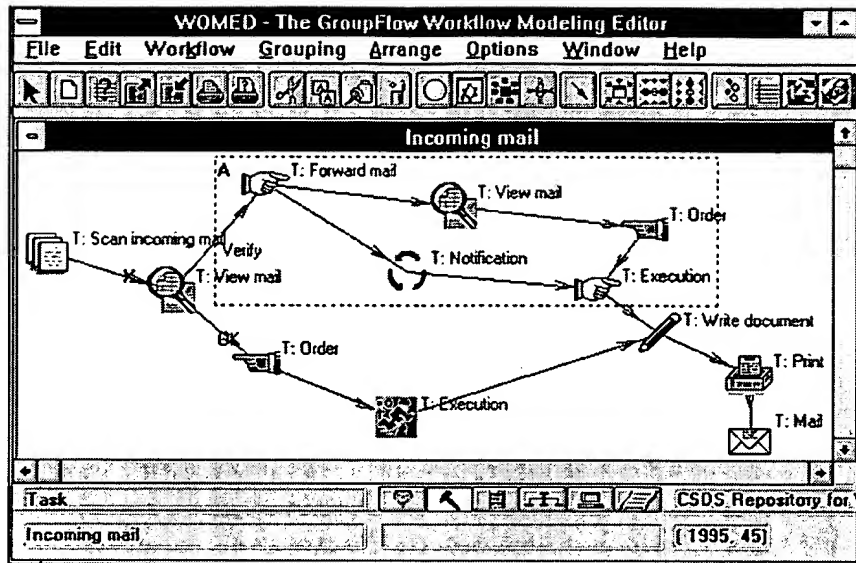


Figure 5-7 [Grouping tasks]

Regarding Claim 2 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprising a separator bar (line, area, region, box, panel, window, etc.) separating the first screen area from the second screen area (Figure 7-2).

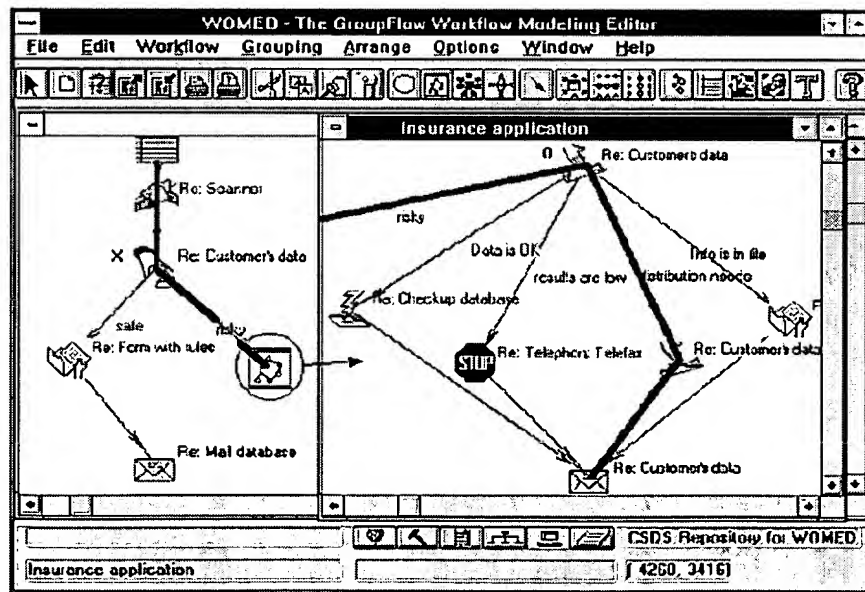


Figure 7-2 [Flat Insurance Application workflow without layered clustering]

Regarding Claim 3 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises a workflow component (item, icon, symbol, object, list, library, script, element, template, etc.) menu (tool box, list, toolbar, "smart icons", etc.) including a plurality of workflow components (nodes, roles, tasks, sub-workflows, work items, elements, etc.) employed to create a business workflow process in the (first) screen area (Section 5.2, Page 65; Bullets 1-5, Page 76; toolbar, Pages 124-125; Figures 5-5, 5-6, 702).

Regarding Claim 4 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the plurality of workflow components comprises at least one action component for defining actions (tasks, activities, elements, etc.) in a business workflow process and at least one action grouping (clustering, aggregating) component for grouping the at least one action component (Section 5.3.2.1 Cluster, Pages 78-80; Menu Group/Ungroup, Page 117; Figures 5-6-5-9, 117).

Regarding Claim 5 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the at least one action component grouping component being a role component (Bullets 2, 4, Page 28; Section 4.4.3 Role, Pages 57-59 Section 5.2.3 Team tasks, Pages 70-71; Figure 4-13).

Regarding Claim 8 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the plurality of workflow components further comprises at least one decision component for providing decision control flow to the business workflow process ("parallel route", Pages 44-45; Last Paragraph, Page 51; "control flow", Pages 75-77; Figures 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-10, 5-5).

Regarding Claim 9 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises an editable decision component property screen (window, pane, panel, box, menu, dialog, etc.) employed to add and delete rules (expressions, formulas, etc.) to the decision component (node definition/specification; "Basic object routing rules", "Business rules", Page 46; Figures 4-9, 6-8).

Regarding Claim 10 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises an editable rule property screen employed to define rules added to the decision component ("parallel route", Pages 44-45; Last Paragraph, Page 51; "control flow", Pages 75-77; Last Paragraph, Page 87; Figures 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-10, 5-5).

Regarding Claim 11 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the plurality of workflow components further comprise at least one of the following components: action, an action group, a branching, a joining or a decision ("serial route", "parallel route", Pages 44-45; Last Paragraph, Page 51; "control flow", Pages 75-77; Figures 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-10, 5-5).

Regarding Claim 12 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises a binding (linking, coupling, associating, relating, mapping, tying, etc.) component menu (list, library, tool box, tool bar, etc.) including a plurality of technological components employed to bind the graphical representation of the business workflow process to at least one of the plurality of technological components in the (second) screen area (region, panel, pane, box, etc.; edges, interface node, ingoing/outgoing connections; Paragraph 1, Page 78; Last Paragraph, Page 88; Paragraph 2, Page 105; Pages 124-125; Figures 5-5, 5-6, 5-8, 5-9, 6-1).

Regarding Claim 13 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises a message (arguments, conditions, constraints, text, etc.) editor for each of the plurality of technological components (dialog, edge

attributes/conditions/arguments, node/edge specification; Last Paragraph, Page 87;
Last Paragraph, Page 131; Figures 129, 130A-130C).

Regarding Claim 14 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the plurality of technological components further comprises at least one of the following components: COM, script, message queue or schedule (time factor; Section 4.2.4, Pages 47-48).

Regarding Claim 15 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises at least one implementation port (interface, connection point, connector, input, application program interface (API), etc.) that couples (links, binds, ties, relates, associates, relates, connects, etc.) at least one workflow component to the at least one technological component (e.g. DDE/OLE; Paragraph 1, Page 78; Last Paragraph, Page 88; Paragraph 2, Page 105; Pages 124-125; Figures 5-5, 5-6, 5-8, 5-9, 6-1).

Regarding Claim 16 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises a data (object, information, etc.) flow screen that illustrates (presents, graphs, draws, forms, provides, displays, etc.) data flow between

the at least one implementation port (interface, API, connector, connection point, link, edge, etc.) and the at least one technological component (e.g. object flows wherein objects comprise data/attributes and methods (interfaces), Paragraph 2, Page 49; Figures 4-9, 6-5, 6-6, 6-8, 7-3).

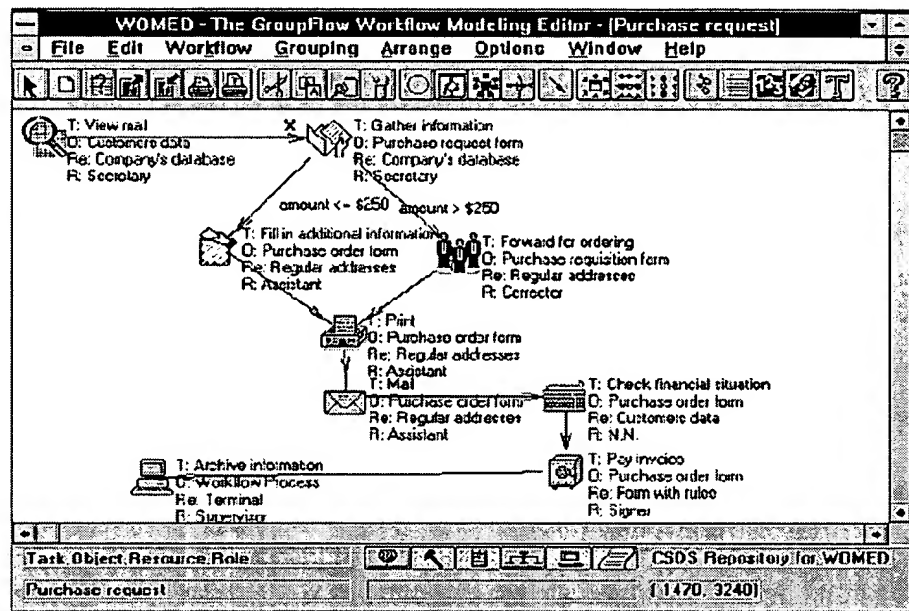


Figure 6-8 [Purchase request, final stage]

Regarding Claim 17 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the at least one implementation port being provided by dragging the at least one technological component into the second screen area (region, window, box, pane, panel, etc.) using a user selection device (edge; inserting nodes and connectors, Page 86; Figure 6-1).

Regarding Claim 18 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user

interface program further comprises an editable port references message properties screen employed to reorder implementation ports (modifying order constraints, Last Paragraph, Page 87).

Regarding Claim 19 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the editable port references message properties screen is further employed to launch an editable port properties screen, the editable port properties screen being employed to at least one of add, delete or edit port messages or arguments (conditions, constraints, routing rules, edge conditions/arguments/messages/attributes, etc.; Section 5.3.1, First Paragraph, Page 73; Paragraph 3, Page 75; node/task specification, Pages 129-130; Figures 5-4, 129-130C).

Regarding Claim 21 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program being employed to convert (transform, translate, compile, create, generate, etc.) the graphical representation of the business workflow process into executable code (executing, implementing, running the workflow/business process; GroupFlow workflow engine; Section 5.1.1 Basic use of GroupFlow and activation of workflow Instances, Pages 63-64; Paragraph 6, Page 104; Figures 6-8, 7-2).

10. Claims 22–31, 33-35 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okita et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,225,998.

Regarding Claim 22 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program comprising:

- a plurality of schedule tool components employed to create a representation of a business process schedule (flow, steps, tasks, activities, timing, transaction flow, workflow, etc.) according to a set of predefined rules (libraries, routing rules, display properties; Column 2, Lines 1-17; Column 3, Lines 13-33; Column 5, Lines 43-51; Column 6, Lines 43-57; Figures 4-7, 13-16; Figure 2, Element 200; Figure 3, Element 302); and
- a conversion component employed to convert the schedule (flow, representation, process, etc.) to executable code (CCT Compiler, Column 5, Lines 1-26 and 50-57; Figure 2 Element 204; Figure 3, Element 306).

Regarding Claim 23 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program further comprising at least one binding (coupling, linking, associating, mapping, relating, etc.) tool component employed to bind the representation of the business process schedule to at least one technological component (connectors, connection objections,

links; Column 6, Lines 43-57; Column 11, Lines 64-68; Column 12, Lines 1-10; Figure 8).

Regarding Claim 24 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program further comprising an input screen (window, pane, panel, region, area, interface, form, box, etc.) for inputting interfaces and methods of the at least one technological component (arguments, conditions, constraints, port, API, connection point; Column 2, Lines 1-17; Column 3, Lines 13-33; Column 5, Lines 43-51; Column 6, Lines 43-57; Figures 4-7, 13-16; Figure 2, Element 200; Figure 3, Element 302).

Regarding Claim 25 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program further comprising a data flow connection sheet screen employed to view data flow between the business process schedule and the at least one technological component (Column 10, Lines 1-31; Figure 15).

Regarding Claim 26 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the plurality of schedule tool components further comprise at least one action component for defining actions in a business process schedule and at least one action grouping component for grouping at least one action component (transaction sets,

libraries, groups, etc.; Column 2, Lines 8-9; Column 11, Lines 22-34; Column 16, Lines 33-46).

Regarding Claim 27 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the action components grouped by the at least one action grouping component are selectable between an associated state and an unassociated state (i.e. group, ungroup, select, deselect; Column 14, Lines 20-45; Column 16, Lines 33-46; Figures 9A, 9B).

Regarding Claim 28 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein a control flow flowing to an action component grouped by an action grouping component having an associated state will automatically connect to a connection point (input, connector, interface, port, etc.) on the action group component (Column 8, Lines 7-23; Column 11, Lines 33-41; Column 12, Lines 1-10; Column 15, Lines 33-46; Column 16, Lines 10-32).

Regarding Claim 29 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein a control flow flowing to an action component group by an action grouping component having a non-associated state will allow a direct connection to a connection

point on the action component (Column 6, Lines 54-57; Column 7, Lines 23-32; Column 8, Lines 12-23; Column 11, Lines 10-21; Column 12, Lines 25-36; Column 16, Lines 1-45; Figures 5, 7).

Regarding Claim 30 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein an action grouping component having a non-associated state will not have a control handle (name, label, port, input, connector, connection point, etc.) for directing control flow and an action component having an associated state will have a control handle for directing control flow (Column 9, Lines 40-64; Column 11, Lines 64-68; Column 12, Lines 1-10; Figure 8).

Regarding Claim 31 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein a connection between a first action grouping component having at least one action associated with the first action grouping component and a second action grouping component having at least one action associated with the second action grouping component will automatically generate a first grouping component port (connection point, input, port, link, interface, etc.) and a second grouping component port on the second action grouping component on the second action grouping component and a communicates a message coupling (linking, binding, relation, mapping, connecting, etc.) the first grouping component port to the second grouping

component port (Column 7, Lines 23-32; Column 9, Lines 35-65; Column 11, Lines 64-68; Column 12, Lines 1-10; Column 16, Lines 1-45; Figures 5, 7-8).

Regarding Claim 33 teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein a control flow flowing from an action component grouped by an action grouping component having an associated state to an implementation port will automatically generating a grouping component port on an edge of an action grouping component (Column 15, Lines 33-65; Column 16, Lines 1-45).

Regarding Claim 34 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the at least one action grouping component allowing only a single control flow to flow into at least one action component (Column 7, Lines 1-32; Column 11, Lines 33-40; Figure 5, Elements 504, 504, 508, 510; Figures 6-7).

Regarding Claim 35 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the at least one action grouping component being a transaction component and further including at least one of a catch code and a compensation code related to the transaction component (error/exception handling; Figure 5, Element 504).

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Regarding Claim 38 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the at least one decision component allowing for the addition of other rules (Column 10, Lines 55-68; Column 12, Lines 11-37; Figures 6, 12-14).

11. Claims 53-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Action Technologies ActionWorkflow system and method (product) as evidenced at least by ActionWorkflow Enterprise Series 3.0 Process Builder User's Guide (1996).

Regarding Claim 53 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes that are representable at a transaction level and action level, the system comprising:

- a graphical user interface (process builder, process map; Pages 2-1 – 2-3; Tables 2-1-2-5; Figures 2-1, 3-2, 3-30, 3-40); and
- a plurality of modeling components accessible through the graphical user interface and employed to create a graphical representation of a business process; and
- binding (coupling, linking, associating, relating, integration, mapping, etc.) of the business process to at least one technological component (Pages 2-1 – 2-3, 3-2, 4-54; Tables 2-1-2-5; Figures 2-1, 3-2, 3-30, 3-40).

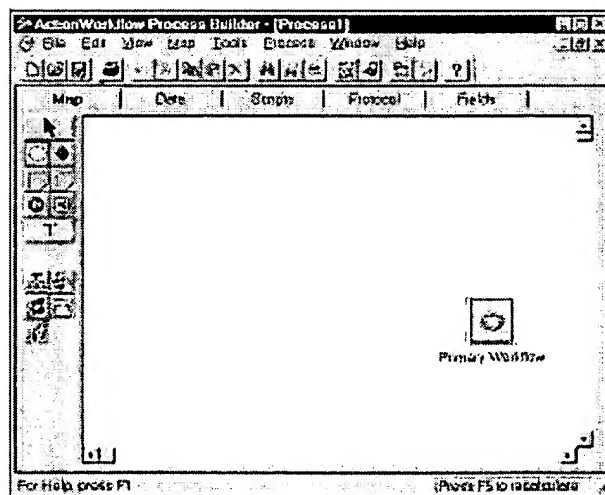


Figure 2-1 Process Builder window

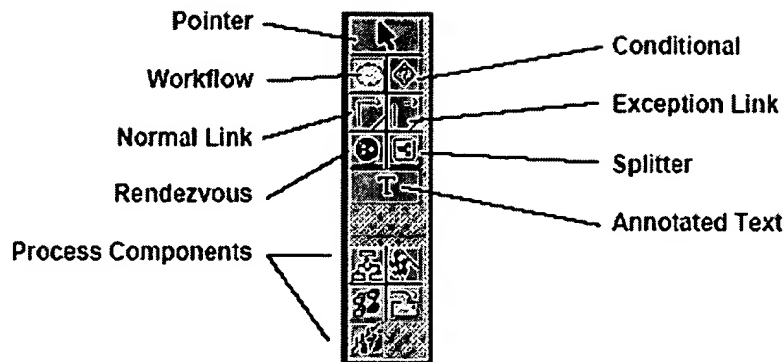


Figure 2-2 The Process Builder toolbox

See also the section on Tools menu commands beginning on page 4-51.

Regarding Claim 54 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes wherein at least a portion of the plurality of modeling components residing on a workflow component menu (toolbar, menu, tabs, toolbox, etc.) are employed to create the graphical representation of a business workflow process in a (first) screen area (window, box, panel, panel, portion of the screen/window/system, etc.; "Tool bars", Page 2-3;"Toolbox", Page 2-10; Pages 3-7-3-8; Tables 2-1-2-5; Figure 2-1).

Regarding Claim 55 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes wherein at least a portion of the plurality of modeling components residing on a binding (coupling, linking, associating, integrating, etc.; e.g. exception link, condition link, rendezvous, splitter, etc.) component menu (tool bar, tool box, list, tabs, etc.) are employed to create a binding (association, link, mapping, connection, etc.) to the graphical representation of the business workflow process in a

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(second) screen area (region, pane, window, panel, section, box, etc.; "Tool bars", Page 2-3; "Toolbox", Page 2-10; "To draw this map", Steps 1-11, Page 3-9; "Creating and defining workflows", Page 3-10).

Regarding Claim 56 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes further comprising at least one implementation port (API, connection point, connector, method call, message, protocol, etc.) coupling (linking, associating, relating, integrating, etc.) at least one component of the graphical representation of the business process to the at least one technological component (process components, protocol, method; Pages 3-68, 3-71, 4-58, 5-19; Tables 2-1-2-5; Figures 3-46, 3-51).

Regarding Claim 57 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes further comprising a data flow screen (window, area, box, pane, panel, etc.) illustrating (drawing, displaying, showing, providing, etc.) data flow (messages, information, method calls, etc.) between the at least one implementation port (connection point, connector, link, method, API, etc.) and the at least technological component (i.e. process map, data tab; "Working in the data tab", Pages 3-64-3-66; Figures 3-30, 3-33, 3-44, 5-3).

Regarding Claim 58 ActionWorkflow teaches a system that facilitates the modeling of business processes further comprising converting (compiling, transforming,

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translating, interpreting, etc.) the graphical representation of the business process workflow into executable code (compiling, executing, implementing, activating workflow, generate workflow; "Producing the .AWO file", Page 3-91; "Generate", Page 4-80).

12. Claims 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ott, Marcus, Conceptual Design and Implementation of a Graphical Workflow-Modeling Editing in the Context of Distributed Groupware-Databases (1994).

Regarding Claim 59-60 Ott teaches a graphical user interface program stored on a computer readable medium comprising executable instructions, the graphical user interface program comprising (Table 4-1; Figures 4-3, 4-4, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-13, 5-1, 5-4, 5-5):

- means for allowing a user to create a graphical representation of a business process (Paragraphs 2-3, Page 62; Section 5.2 Requirements for a graphical workflow modeling editor, Pages 65-66; Section 5.3.1 Graphical Modeling Notation, Pages 73-74; Figures 4-9, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7); and

- means for allowing a user to create a binding (linking, associating, tying, integrating, relating, mapping, coupling, etc.) of the graphical representation for the business process to at least one technological component (hardware, software, process, sub-process, task, activity, object, code, script, agent, resource, etc.; Section 4.3.2 Link, Pages 52-53; Section 6.1 WOMED's visual process language, Pages 86-87).

Regarding Claim 61 Ott teaches a graphical user interface program further comprising a means for viewing data flow (information, object, attribute, etc.) between the means for coupling (linking, mapping, connecting, etc.) and the at least one technological component (Figures 4-9, 5-7, 5-8, 5-9, 6-8, 7-2).

Regarding Claim 62 Ott teaches a graphical user interface program further comprising a means for converting the graphical representation of the business process into executable code (i.e. executing, implementing, running the workflow/business process; GroupFlow workflow engine; Section 5.1.1 Basic use of GroupFlow and activation of workflow Instances, Pages 63-64; Figures 6-8, 7-2).

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

14. Claims 39-47 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by TeamWARE Group's Teamware Flow as evidenced by at least the following: Teamware Flow 3.1 User's Guide (2000).

Regarding Claim 39 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps comprising ("Using the Planner", Pages 58-59; Chapter 4 Using the Planner, Pages 117-121; Figures 1-1, 1-3, 2-2):

- displaying a screen having a first region (screen, area, window, panel, pane, etc.) employed to create a representation of a business workflow process (Figures 1-1, 1-3, 1-6, 2-2); and
- a second region employed to bind (link, couple, tie, associate, integrate, relate, map, connect, etc.) the representation of a business workflow process to a representation of at least one technological component (Figures 1-1, 1-3, 2-2).

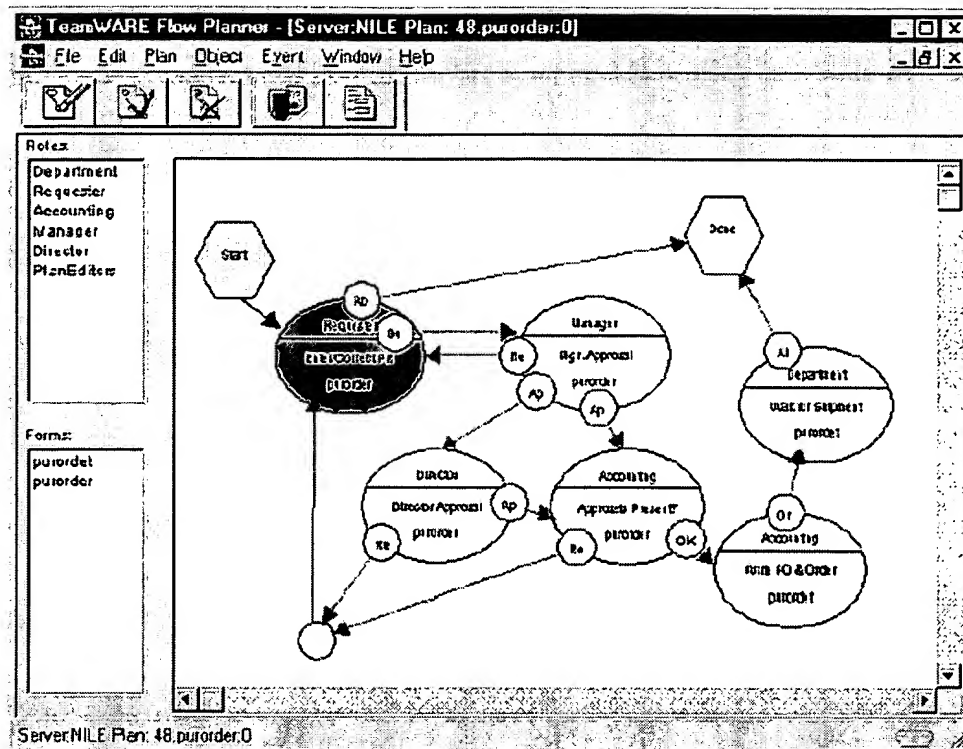


Figure 1-1: Example of a plan defining a workflow

The screenshot shows the TeamWARE Flow Viewer application window. The title bar reads "TeamWARE Flow Viewer - (ndc - BasicTask Plan 50)". The menu bar includes "File", "Process", "Activity", "Tool", "Options", "Window", and "Help". The toolbar contains icons for a document, a flow diagram, a person, and a clock. The main window is titled "Activity:" and "Choice:". Below this, there is a "Basic Task" section with an "[EDIT]" button and a "Copy" button. The "General" tab is selected, showing fields for "To:" (Yamatoka), "From:" (Yamatoka), "Activity:" (Basic Task), "Status:" (active), "Participants:" (Yamatoka), and "Description:" (When task is done, choose Done from the menu.). The status bar at the bottom shows "Ready" and "Multi server: Yamatoka".

Figure 3-11: Process window

Regarding Claim 40 Teamware teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprises displaying a separator bar (line, box, window outline/frame, frame, etc.) between the first screen area and the second screen area (Figures 1-1, 1-3, 2-2).

Regarding Claim 41 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising displaying a workflow component menu (tool box, toolbar, list, repository, etc.) including a plurality of workflow components (nodes, scripts, forms, users/roles, arrows, links, subplans, templates, etc.) employed to create a business workflow process (Chapter 4 Using the Planner, Pages 117-124; Figures 2-3, 2-6, 2-10).

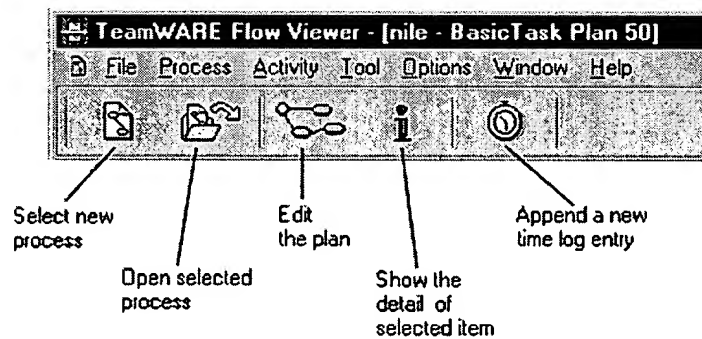


Figure 2-3: Viewer toolbar

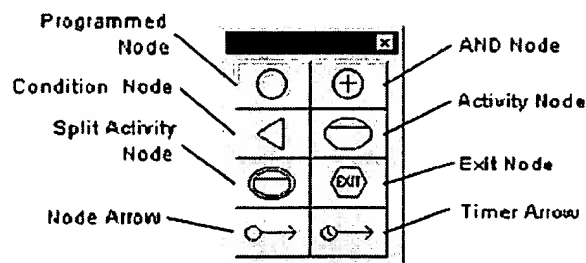


Figure 2-6: Planner toolbox

Regarding Claim 42 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising retrieving and inserting an image (icon, graphic, component, object, picture, symbol, etc.) into the first screen area of a selection one of the plurality of workflow components in response to a user selecting the component and dragging the component into the first screen area using a user selection device (Nodes, Pages 25-26; Chapter 4 Using the Planner, Pages 117-118; "Creating a node", Page 139; "Positioning Control Objects", Page 176).

Regarding Claim 43 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising displaying an editable transaction (node, activity node, task, etc.) property screen (window, box, pop-up, form, etc.; Figures 4-5, 4-11, 4-12) employed to relate catch and compensation code (conditional logic, script, error/exception handling, etc.; e.g. condition, and, or, split activity nodes) to a transaction component (workflow component, node, etc.) in response to a user selecting a transaction component residing in the (first) screen area using a user selection device (body/epilog script, Page 132; Activity/Condition/Programmed Nodes, Pages 133-138; "catch", Pages 255, 260; "error", Pages 261-262; Figures 4-13).

Regarding Claim 44 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising an editable decision component property screen employed to add and delete rules (scripts, logic, conditions, etc.) to the decision component in response to a user selecting a decision component residing in

the (first) screen area using a user selection device (priority rules, Page 105-108; activity/condition/programmed nodes, Pages 133-138; Figure 3-14).

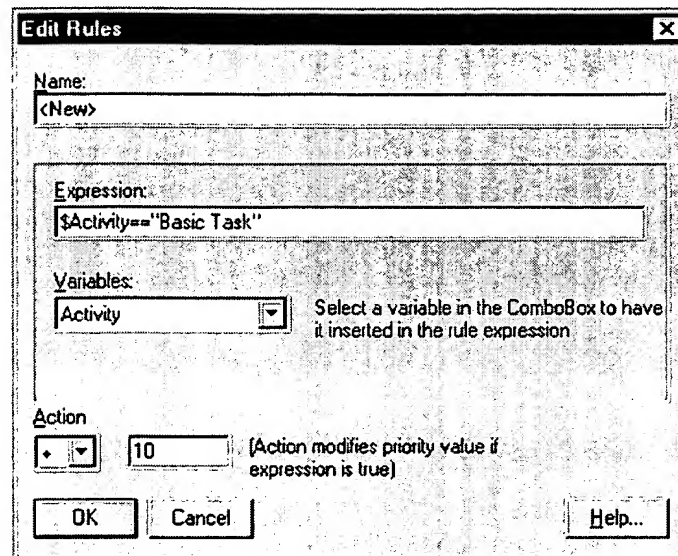


Figure 3-14: Edit Rule window

Regarding Claim 45 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising an editable rule property screen employed to define the rules added to the decision component in response to a user selecting a button (link, menu, action, item, toolbar, icon, graphic, etc.) on the editable decision component property screen using a user selection device (priority rules, Page 105-108; activity/condition/programmed nodes, Pages 133-138; Figure 3-14).

Regarding Claim 46 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising displaying a component menu (list, toolbox, bar, directory, etc.) including a plurality of technological components (e.g. nodes) employed to bind (link, associate, relate, map, couple, integrate, etc.) the graphical representation of the business workflow process to at least one of the plurality

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of technological components (nodes, scripts, servers, agents, roles, etc.; "Using the Planner", Pages 58-59; Chapter 4 Using the Planner 117-121; Figures 1-1, 1-3, 2-2).

Regarding Claim 47 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising displaying a message editor in response to a user selecting one of the plurality of technological components and dragging the component into the (second) screen area using a user selection device (node/process properties window message tab; Pages 97-98; Figure 3-11).

Regarding Claim 49 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising retrieving and displaying an implementation port (connection point, link, API, interface, etc.) image (graphic, icon, picture, indicia, etc.) employed to bind (link, map, couple, connect, associate, arrows, choices, etc.) a technological component to a component in a business workflow process in response to a user selecting one of the plurality of technology components and dragging the component into the second screen are using a user selection device (Last Paragraph, Page 27; Steps 1-5, Page 61; Figures 1-3, 1-9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ott, Marcus, Conceptual Design and Implementation of a Graphical Workflow-Modeling Editing in the Context of Distributed Groupware-Databases (1994) as applied to claims 1-5, 8-19 and 21 above.

Regarding Claim 6 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the at least one action component is a grouping component, as discussed above.

Ott does not expressly teach that at least one of the action component grouping component is a transaction component as claimed; however, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific label applied to the component group. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific label applied to the component group. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the

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claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP § 2106.

Regarding Claim 7 Ott teaches that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises an editable transaction property screen (window, box, area, region, pane, panel, etc.) and exception/error handling code (exception handling, error handling, backtracking, etc.; Last Bullet, Page 29; First Bullet Page 30).

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17. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ott, Marcus, Conceptual Design and Implementation of a Graphical Workflow-Modeling Editing in the Context of Distributed Groupware-Databases (1994) as applied to claims 1-19 and 21 above, and further in view of Visio as evidenced by at least the following:

I. Doherty, Paul, Visio Reshaping Company Thinking (1999), herein after reference A; and

II. Lennox, Michael, Draw smart with Visio 2000 Technical Edition (1999), herein after reference B.

Regarding Claim 20 Ott teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program for creating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component as discussed above.

Ott does not expressly teach a *binding wizard* for defining at least one technological component, the binding wizard being invoked by dragging the at least one technological component into the second screen area with a user selection device.

Visio teaches displaying (launching, providing, etc.) a binding wizard in response to a user selecting one of a plurality of technological components (e.g. databases, COM objects, ActiveX controls, ODBC, OLE, hyperlinks, Microsoft Access, etc.) in an

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analogous are of providing/utilizing a workflow scheduler/modeler graphical user interface for the purposes of assisting the user in binding the selected component to the graphical representation of the business process workflow (reference A: Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 80; reference B: Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 46; "Smart drawings", Columns 1-2, Page 48).

More generally Visio teaches a system and method for generating graphical representation of business process workflows wherein the workflows are created using a plurality of schedule/process components which are dragged and dropped from a plurality of menus (tool boxes, libraries, stencils, etc.) onto one or more screens (windows, regions, areas, etc.; reference A: Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 77; Column 3, Paragraph 2, Page 80; Columns 1-3, Page 82; Figure 80; reference B: Column 2, Paragraphs 1-3, Page 46; "Smart drawings", Columns 1-2, Page 48; "Customization", Columns 1-2, Page 49).

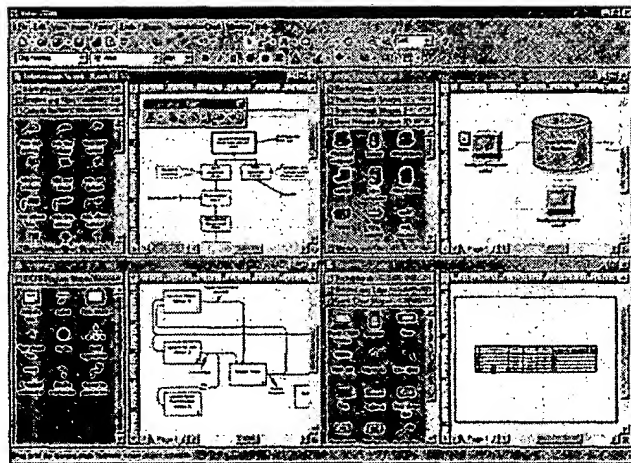


Figure 1: reference A: Figure 80, Visio multi-window graphical user interface

It would have been to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program for creating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component as taught by Ott would have benefited from providing (displaying, launching) a binding wizard in view of the teachings of Visio; the resultant computer executable instructions (system/method) assisting users in binding the at least one technological component to the graphical representation of the business process workflow (Visio: reference B: Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 46; "Smart drawings", Columns 1-2, Page 48).

18. Claims 32 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Okita et al., U.S. Patent No. 6225,998 as applied to claims 1-32, 34-35 and 38 above.

Regarding Claim 32 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the deletion of one of the first action grouping component and the second action grouping component created an implementation port (connection point, interface, api, etc.) of the deleted action grouping component (Column 15, Lines 15-68).

Okita et al. does not expressly teach that actions associated with the deletion of a transaction results in the creation of an implementation port of the deleted action on a *separator bar* as claimed however, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific location of the deleted port. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific location of the deleted port. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Regarding Claim 36 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the transaction component can be nested (compound, sub-flows, sub-workflows, connector objects; groups, sets, etc.; Column 11, Lines 64-68; Column 12, Lines 1-10; Column 16, Lines 1-45).

Okita et al. does not expressly teach limiting the nesting of workflows (components, objects, transactions, etc.) limited to two nesting levels as claimed however, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the number of nested workflows allowed/not-allowed. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the number of nested workflows allowed/not-allowed. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Regarding Claim 37 Okita et al. teach a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program wherein the plurality of schedule tool components comprises at least one decision component having at least one rule (Column 10, Lines 55-68; Column 12, Lines 11-36).

Okita et al. does not expressly teach that at least one of the rules for the decision component is *non-editable*.

Official notice is taken that a decision component must have at least one rule as a precondition for being considered a decision component for without at least one rule there would be no logic (rule) upon which to make a decision. Further making at least one of the rules non-editable is an obvious design choice providing a means for insuring that every decision component has at least one rule.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for employing a business process scheduling program as taught by Okita et al. would have benefited from requiring that each decision component have at least one on-editable rule associated with it in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions ensuring that the decision component contained at least one rule/logic by which to execute its decisions against.

19. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeamWARE Group's Teamware Flow as evidenced by at least Teamware Flow 3.1 User's Guide (2000) as applied to claims 39-47 above, and further in view of Visio as evidenced by at least the following:

I. Doherty, Paul, Visio Reshaping Company Thinking (1999), herein after reference A; and

II. Lennox, Michael, Draw smart with Visio 2000 Technical Edition (1999), herein after reference B.

Regarding Claim 48 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps of displaying a screen having a first screen area/region employed to create a graphical representation of a business process workflow and a second screen area/region employed to bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component as discussed above.

Teamware does not expressly teach displaying a *binding wizard* in response to a user selecting one of the plurality of technological components and dragging the component into the (second) screen area using a user selection device as claimed.

Visio teaches displaying (launching, providing, etc.) a binding wizard in response to a user selecting one of a plurality of technological components (e.g. databases, COM objects, ActiveX controls, ODBC, OLE, hyperlinks, Microsoft Access, etc.) in an

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analogous are of providing/utilizing a workflow scheduler/modeler graphical user interface for the purposes of assisting the user in binding the selected component to the graphical representation of the business process workflow (reference A: Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 80; reference B: Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 46; "Smart drawings", Columns 1-2, Page 48).

It would have been to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps of displaying a screen having a first screen area/region employed to create a graphical representation of a business process workflow and a second screen area/region employed to bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component as taught by Teamware would have benefited from providing (displaying, launching) a binding wizard in view of the teachings of Visio; the resultant computer executable instructions (system/method) assisting users in binding the at least one technological component to the graphical representation of the business process workflow (Visio: reference B: Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 46; "Smart drawings", Columns 1-2, Page 48).

20. Claims 50-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeamWARE Group's Teamware Flow as evidenced by at least Teamware Flow 3.1 User's Guide (2000) as applied to claims 39-48 above, and further in view of Ott, Marcus, Conceptual Design and Implementation of a Graphical Workflow-Modeling Editing in the Context of Distributed Groupware-Databases (1994).

Regarding Claim 50 Teamware does not expressly teach displaying an editable port references message properties screen employed to *reorder* implementation ports as claimed.

Ott teaches an editable port references message properties screen employed to reorder implementation ports as part of a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program further comprises (modeling order constraints, Last Paragraph, Page 87), in an analogous art of business process workflow modeling/graphical presentation generation, for the purposes of defining routing rules/primitives (section 4.2.3 Pages 43-45; Last Paragraph, Page 87).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component as taught by

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Teamware would have benefited from providing an editable port references message properties screen employed to reorder implementation ports in view of the teachings of Ott; the resultant computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions (system/method) for defining routing rules/primitives (Ott: section 4.2.3 Pages 43-45; Last Paragraph, Page 87).

Regarding Claim 51 Teamware does not expressly teach launching (displaying) an editable ports properties screen, the editable port properties screen employed to at least one of the following add, delete or edit port messages or arguments as claimed.

Ott teaches an editable port references message properties screen that is further employed to launch an editable port properties screen, the editable port properties screen being employed to at least one of add, delete or edit port messages or arguments as part of a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program (conditions, constraints, routing rules, edge conditions, arguments, messages, attributes, etc.; Section 5.3.1, First Paragraph, Page 73; Paragraph 3, Page 75; node/task specification, Pages 129-130; Figures 5-4, 129-130C), in an analogous art of business process workflow modeling for the purposes of defining routing rules/primitives (section 4.2.3 Pages 43-45; Last Paragraph, Page 87).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component as taught by Teamware would have benefited from providing an editable port references message properties screen employed to employed to at least one of add, delete or edit port messages or arguments in view of the teachings of Ott; the resultant computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions (system/method) enabling users to define routing rules/primitives (Ott: section 4.2.3 Pages 43-45; Last Paragraph, Page 87).

Regarding Claim 52 Teamware teaches a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions further comprising executing/using the plan (use the plan, Pages 71-72).

Teamware does not expressly teach converting the graphical representation of the business workflow process into executable code as claimed.

Ott teaches converting (transforming, translating, compiling, creating, generating, etc.) the graphical representation of the business workflow process into executable code as part of a computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program in an analogous art of

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business process scheduling for the purposes of executing/running the workflow (executing, implementing, running the workflow/business process; GroupFlow workflow engine; Section 5.1.1 Basic use of GroupFlow and activation of workflow Instances, Pages 63-64; Paragraph 6, Page 104; Figures 6-8, 7-2).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component as taught by Teamware would have benefited from converting the graphical representation of the business process workflow into executable code in view of the teachings of Ott; the resultant computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions (system/method) employed to execute the workflow (Ott: Section 5.1.1 Basic use of GroupFlow and activation of workflow Instances, Pages 63-64; Paragraph 6, Page 104).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant's paraphrased summary of the interview held August 23, 2005 in the remarks filed December 16, 2005 (Last Paragraph, Page 2). Examiner recalls indicating that an affirmative statement from the Applicant stating that the BizTalk Server product is the applicant's own work and was not publicly available and/or for sales one year prior to the filing date of the instant application would not meet the requirement for information under USC 105. The intent of the USC 105 requirement for information is to document the applicant's knowledge related to the disclosed invention, specifically to document, with information not already

on record, the applicant's knowledge of at least the BizTalk suite of products/framework, BizTalk Orchestration, Visio suite of products, modeling of workflow processes, user interfaces for modeling workflows, graphical manipulation workflow process/business components, business process scheduling and representing business process schedules/workflow according to a set of rules and binding components (representations of business process/workflows/activities) to technological components.

In response to the USC 105 Requirement For Information applicant's state, in the remarks filed December 16, 2005 (Last Paragraph, Page 2) that the requested information is unknown and/or not readily available.

It is noted that information related to the disclosed subject matter is disclosed in at least the following co-pending and related applications: BINDING FOR BUSINESS WORKFLOW PROCESSES (09/560371) and MODEL FOR BUSINESS WORKFLOW PROCESSES MODEL (09/560373).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Entner et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,745,901, teach a system and method for generating a graphical representation (graphical symbols) of a business process workflow wherein the generated graphical representation of the business process workflow is converted into executable code ("The middleware interprets the graphical symbol to convert the graphical symbol into computer readable format.").

- Chatterjee et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,774,661, teach a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding (linking) the graphical representation to one or more technological components via a graphical user interface. Chatterjee et al. further teach that the workflow system/method includes conditional routing/branching, action and decision components/nodes, component menus/tool bars/libraries, a drag and drop interface, compensation/catch code (detour mode) and business rules.

- Davis et al., U.S. Patent no. 5,870,545, teaches a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow (process diagram) and mapping (binding) the graphical representation to at least one resource (technological component) responsible for executing each process activity. Davis et al. further teaches that the workflow system and method compensates for failed process activities (compensation code).

- Boden et al., U.S. Patent no. 5,930,512, teach a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow includes both control and data flow models as well as enable the grouping of process elements/activities.

- Gryphon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,537, teach a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow (modeling, pictograms) and binding (linking, translation map, connection quadrant) the graphical representation to at least one technological component. Gryphon et al. further teach that the workflow modeling system/method further includes catch and compensation

code (catch event), business rules, data flow illustrations and a plurality of component menus/stencils.

- Cloud et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,253,369, teach a system and method for generating executable business process workflows.

- Pareschi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,725,428, teach a workflow management system for generating a graphical representation of business process workflows wherein the system/method further includes catch and compensation code (rollback, backtracking, etc.).

- Ghoneimy et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0078373, teach a system and method for modeling business process workflows includes creating graphical representation of workflows, activity and decision nodes, roles, component menus/organizers, templates and data flow items/attributes.

- Visio and Partners Announce Business Process Management Coalition (1996) teaches the utilization of a system/method for generating graphical representations of business process workflows via a graphical user interface (Visio) as part of an industry effort to standardize the front-end (GUI) modeling/diagramming of business process workflows wherein the system/method serves as the "common graphics engine" for modeling and executing business process workflows.

- Computron's workflow software wins Product of the Year Award (1996), teaches the well-known utilization of systems/methods similar to Visio for generating graphical representations of business process workflows via a graphical user interface.

The article further teaches the commercial availability of a Visio like system/method for modeling and executing business process workflows.

- Dunn, Julie, Solutions Overview (1997), teaches a plurality of commercially available systems and methods for creating/scheduling business processes (workflows) via a graphical user interface (GUI) including but not limited to Open Text's LiveLink Intranet which comprises of multiple screen areas that are employed to create a graphical representation of a business workflow process and bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component.

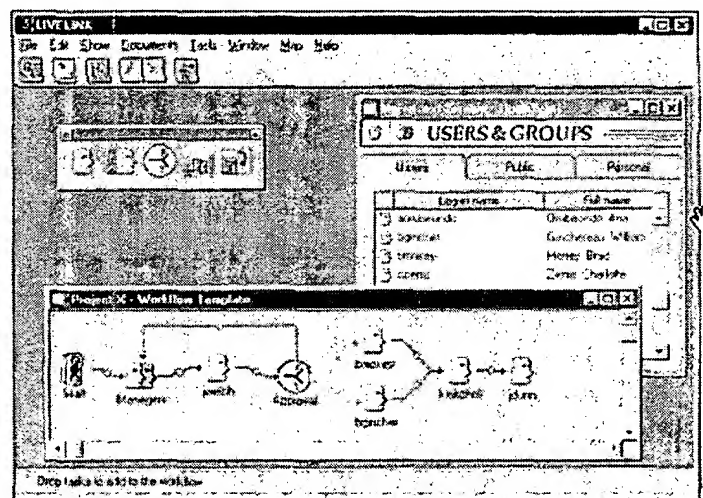
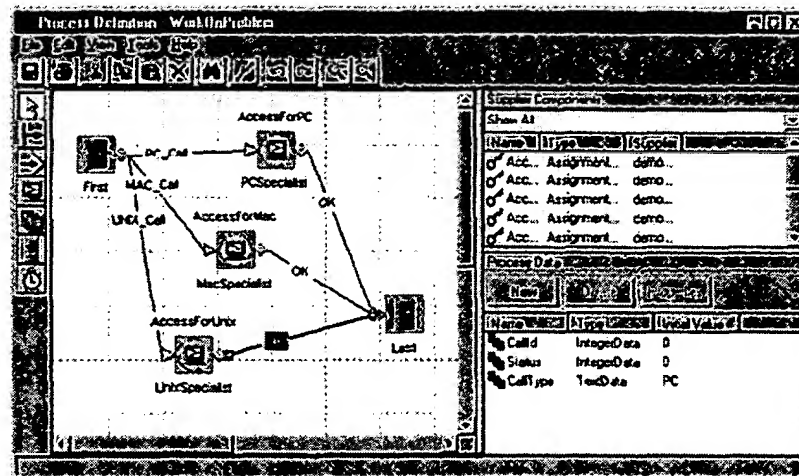


Figure 2: Figure 1A: Open Text LiveLink Intranet

- Burden, Kevin, Taking the "techie" out of workflow design (1997), teaches a commercially available system and method for utilizing a workflow scheduling graphical user interface program comprising of multiple screen areas for binding the graphical representation of the workflow to at least one technological component.



Forte's Conductor features a graphical environment used for defining business processes

Figure 3: Forte Conductor

- Cox, Nancy, *Passing The Baton With Four-Enterprise-Ready Workflow Management Product* (1997), teaches a plurality of commercially available workflow systems and methods, including but not limited to Open Text's LiveLink Intranet, wherein a plurality of the workflow scheduling programs provide a graphical user interface for generating graphical representations of a business workflow process and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component.

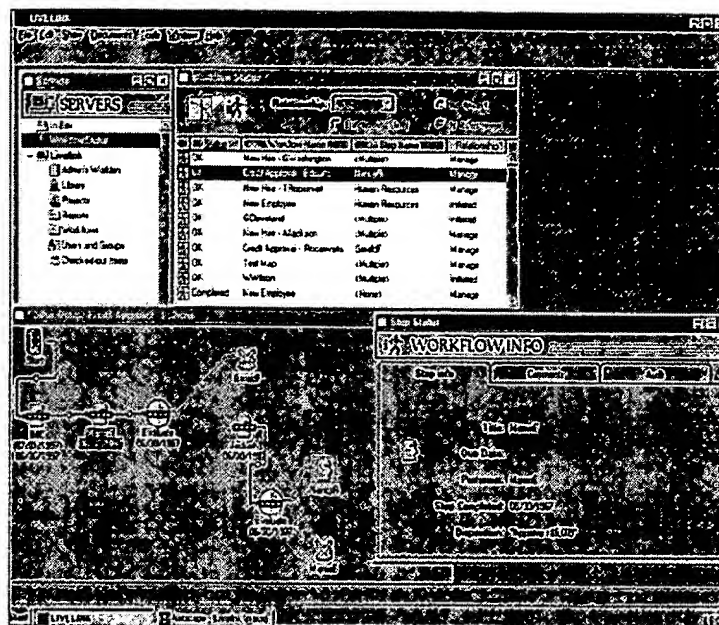
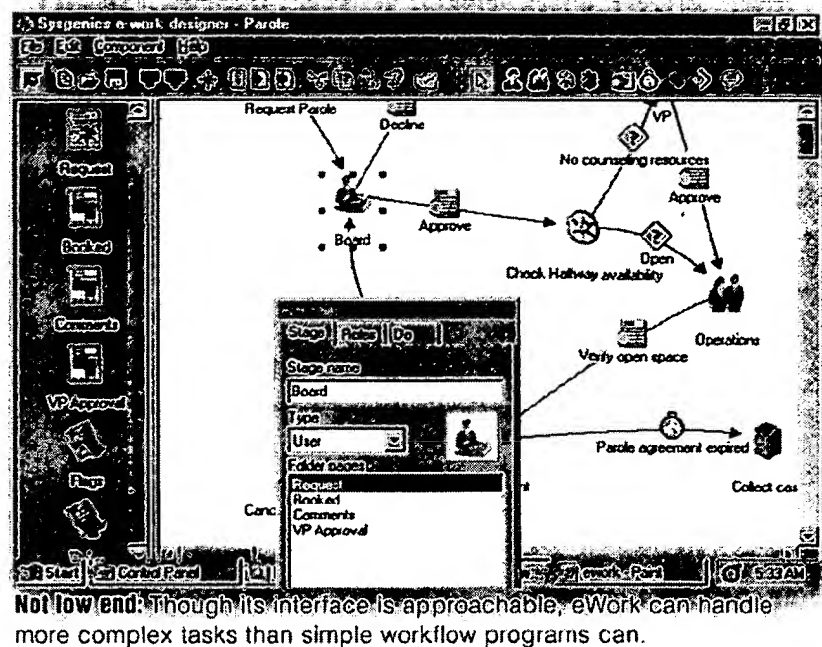


Figure 4: Open Text LiveLink Intranet

- Angus, Jeff, Workflow system addresses middle ground (1997), teaches a commercially available computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for utilizing a workflow scheduling graphical user interface program comprising a plurality of screens/windows employed to create a graphical representation of a business workflow process and bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component.



Not low end: Though its interface is approachable, eWork can handle more complex tasks than simple workflow programs can.

Figure 5: eWork

- Schumacher, Robin, Visio Professional 4.5 (1997) teaches a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component (COM, ActiveX, Lotus Notes, etc.).

- Paul, Santanu et al., RainMan: A Workflow System for the Internet (1997), teaches a workflow system and method wherein the system comprises a graphical user interface program that is employed to create a graphical representation of a business process workflow and bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component. Santanu et al. further teach that the workflow system/method further comprises catch and compensation code (error/exception handling).

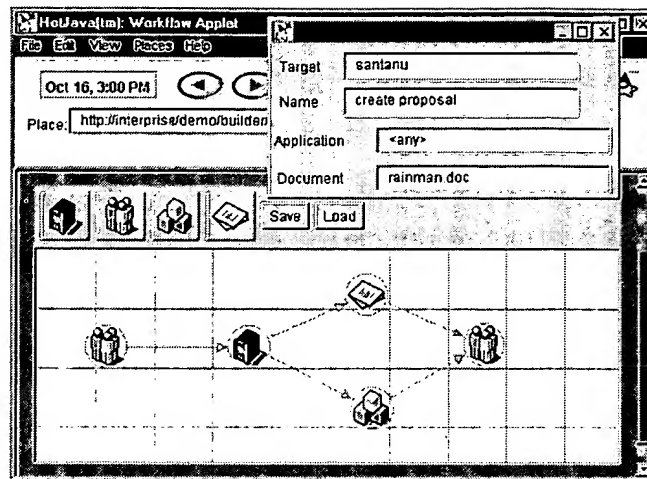


Figure 9: Builder Applet

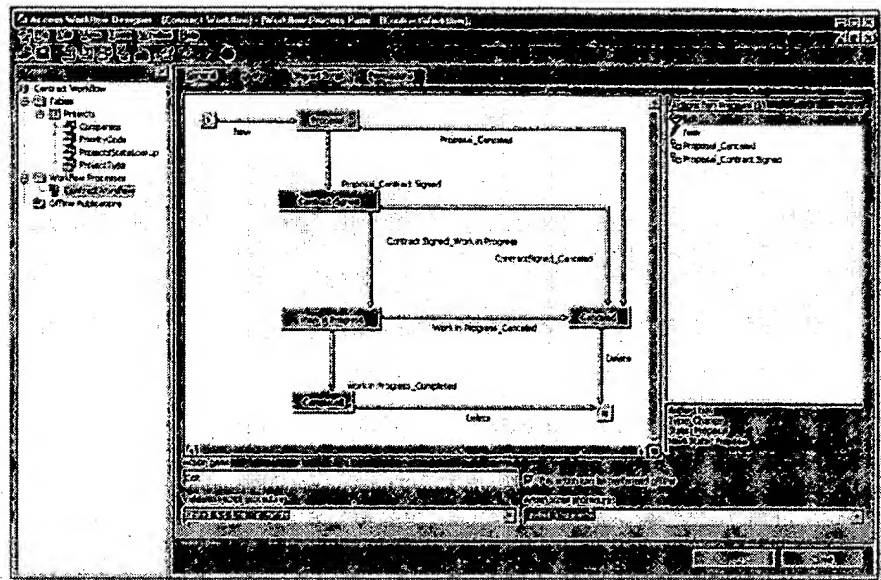
Figure 6: RainMan

- Forte Conductor Web Pages (1998) teaches a commercially available system and method for generating and executing graphical representations of business process workflows via a graphical user interface program wherein the system/method links/couples application logic and process logic. The web Pages further teach that the Forte Conductor system/method utilizes a "drag and drop" metaphor for designing graphical representations of business process workflows as well as employs wizards to define process routing rules.

- Using the WFT Development Environment (1998) teaches a system and method for generating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component.

- Kiely, Don, Microsoft Tackles the Workflow Beast (1999), teaches a commercially available product (system, method, computer readable medium having computer executable instructions) comprising a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program that utilizes a plurality of screens to create a graphical representation

of a business process workflow and bind the graphical representation to at least one technological component.



WINDOW DRESSING: The diagramming tool in Access Workflow Designer defines the data stored in the workflow support tables.

Figure 7: Microsoft Access Workflow Designer

- Sprott, David, Technology Audit I-Flow (1999) teaches a commercially available system and method for generating and executing a graphical representation of a business process workflow via a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program wherein the graphical representation is linked/coupled to at least one technological component (e.g. script).

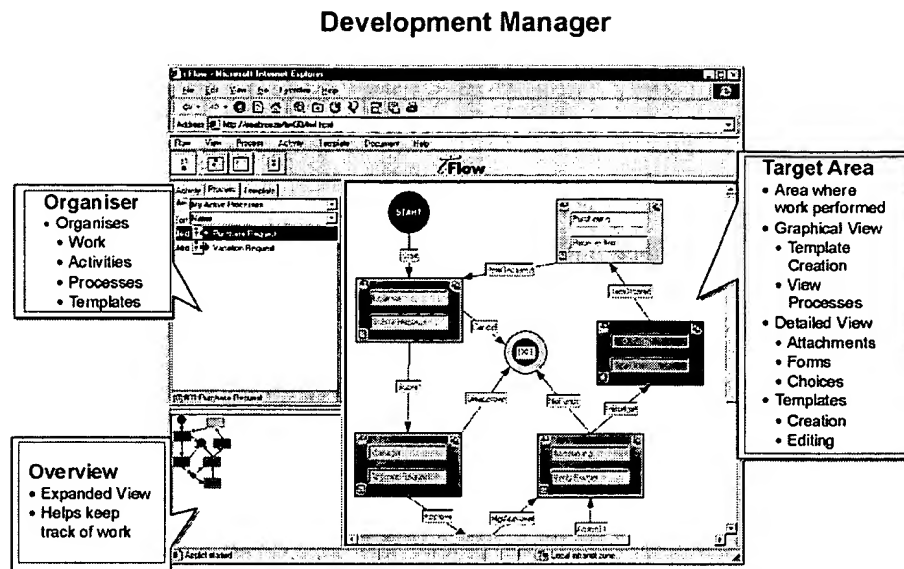


Figure 8: i-Flow

- Verve Introduces New Process Editor Tool (1999), teaches a system and method for generating graphical representation of business process workflows via an "icon-based" graphical user interface.

- Bekker, Scott, Microsoft rolls out a workflow toolset (1999), teaches a system and method for generating graphical representations of business process workflows and binding the graphical representation to one or more technological components (Access Workflow Designer). Bekker further teaches that "A developer uses the workflow designer within Access to design the linear workflow process, which resembles a Visio diagram via a wizard. The tool automatically generates business rules for the workflow process. Scripts are attached to actions displayed in the workflow diagram to automate the action."

- Mohan, C., Workflow Management in the Internet Age (1999) teaches a plurality of well-known and commercially available workflow systems and methods

wherein several of the workflow systems/methods include a workflow scheduler graphical user interface program.

- Allison, Steve, Plexus FloWare: World Class Workflow (2000) teaches a system and method (computer readable medium having computer executable instructions) for utilizing a workflow scheduler graphical user interface comprising a plurality of screens (regions, areas, windows, etc.) for creating a graphical representation of a business process workflow and binding the graphical representation to at least one technological component.

Figure 2: FloWare MapBuilder

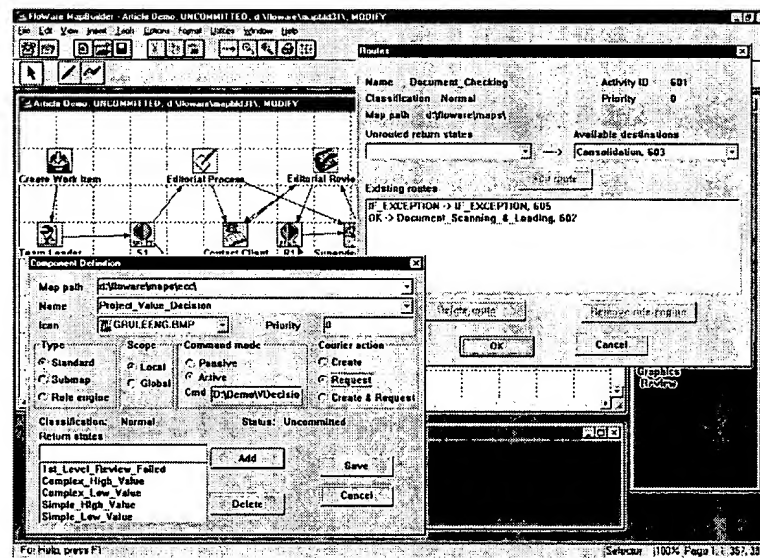


Figure 9: FloWare Map Builder

Figure 6: Aste Architect

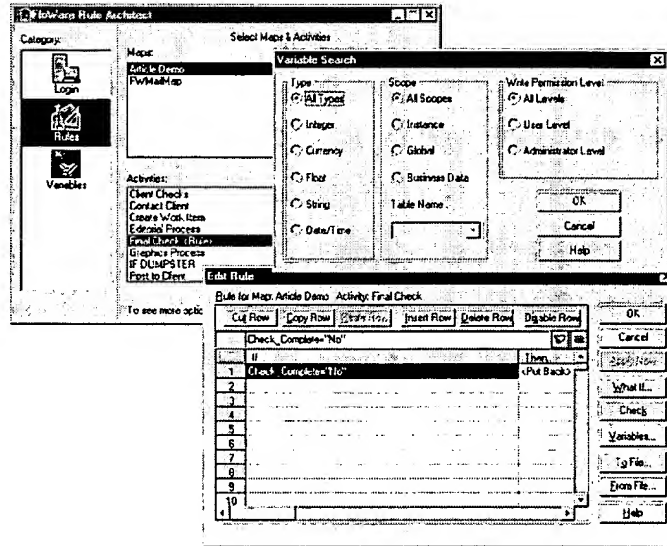


Figure 10: FloWare Rule Architect

- Treev.com Web Pages (2001) teaches a commercially available system and method for graphically modeling business process workflows.

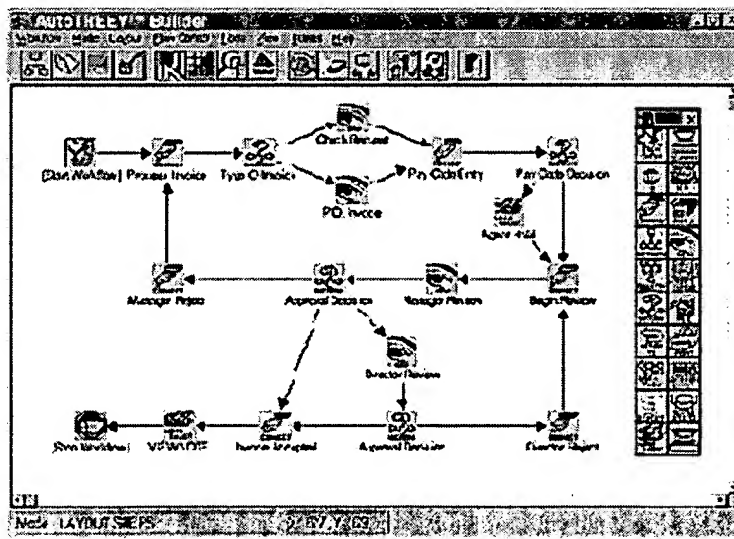


Figure 11: AutoTeev

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- Zeng, Liangzhao et al., On Demand Business-to-Business Integration (2001) teach a system and method for generating and executing business process workflows via a graphical user interface program (Figure 9).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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2/13/2006



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